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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *ds*

REMARKS FOR THE CHRISTMAS BALL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1974

WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS  
BALL! THIS HAS BEEN A LONG AND DIFFICULT YEAR FOR US ALL SO  
LET'S MAKE TONIGHT A TIME TO RELAX AND HAVE FUN. YOU KNOW, OUR  
FOUNDING FATHERS ONLY PROMISED US THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.  
THE CATCHING UP WITH IT IS SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DO FOR OURSELVES.

SO BETTY AND I WANT YOU ALL TO SEE THE DECORATIONS --  
ENJOY THE REFRESHMENTS, SING, DANCE AND HAVE A BALL. MAKE  
ALL THE NOISE YOU WANT. I HAPPEN TO KNOW THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE  
UPSTAIRS. THEY WON'T COMPLAIN.

IN PARTICULAR, BETTY AND I ARE VERY PLEASED TO HAVE WITH

US MICHAEL CARNEY AND HIS ORCHESTRA. MR. CARNEY'S VERY

DANCEABLE MUSIC HAS ADDED A HAPPY NOTE TO MANY FESTIVE OCCASIONS

AND WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE THIS FINE ORCHESTRA WITH US TONIGHT.

WOULD YOU JOIN WITH ME IN EXPRESSING OUR APPRECIATION?

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I GUESS IT IS INEVITABLE AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR TO LOOK  
BACK AND ASSESS WHAT HAS HAPPENED. FOR ME, 1974 WILL OBVIOUSLY  
BE ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE YEARS OF MY LIFE.

IN FACT, IN SOME WAYS THAT BIG MICHIGAN CHRISTMAS TREE  
IN THE BLUE ROOM AND I HAVE A LOT IN COMMON. BOTH THE TREE  
AND I NEVER EXPECTED TO BE IN THE WHITE HOUSE . . . . WE BOTH CAME  
IN GREEN . . . . WE BOTH WERE PUT ON A PEDESTAL . . . . AND THEN,  
A LITTLE WHILE LATER -- WE BOTH GOT TRIMMED . . . .

BUT UNLIKE THAT CHRISTMAS TREE, I'LL STILL BE HERE IN  
JANUARY -- AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE NEW  
CONGRESS, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, TO INSURE THE CONTINUED  
GROWTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR NATION.

A NOTED AMERICAN AUTHOR, HAMILTON WRIGHT MABIE, ONCE  
WROTE: "BLESSED IS THE SEASON THAT ENGAGES THE WHOLE WORLD IN A  
CONSPIRACY OF LOVE." THAT SEASON IS NOW UPON US -- AND THE  
LOVE OF GOD AND THE LOVE OF MANKIND, IS PERHAPS THE ULTIMATE  
EXPRESSION OF WHAT WE SOMETIMES CALL BIPARTISANSHIP. "ON EARTH,  
PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN" IS ALSO A MANDATE.

AND SO, IN THIS SPIRIT, LET ME CLOSE WITH A WISH FOR  
THE NEW YEAR: MAY WE PLAN AND STRIVE AND ACHIEVE TOGETHER --  
AS REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS 'SOMETIMES -- BUT AS AMERICANS  
ALWAYS. AND FINALLY -- A MORE PERSONAL WISH: MAY YOUR  
HAPPINESS BE AS LONG AS SOME OF OUR SPEECHES AND YOUR TROUBLES  
AS SHORT AS SOME OF MY TROUSERS! A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

END OF TEXT



CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT  
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN  
FROM: PAUL THEIS  
SUBJECT: Christmas Ball for Members of  
Congress

Date and Place of Presidential Use: White House - December 17, 1974  
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